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3rd August 2021

Our ref: NIC-469560-M3F3X

Dear Sir

Re: Information Request – Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000

Thank you for your email dated 8th June 2021 requesting the following information:

“Please provide a copy of all agendas and minutes of any GDPR programme board that took place from the inception of the programme up to 1st June 2021”

We have considered your request and in accordance with S.1 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) I can confirm that we do hold the information that you have requested.

We are sorry for the delay in responding to your request. Please find enclosed the information you are entitled to receive under FOIA.

You will note that some information has been redacted. This is because we are unable to release the names of other members of staff, as this information is exempt information under Section 40(2) and 40(3A)(a) (Personal Information) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. To disclose this information would be a breach of the Data Protection principles. NHS Digital considers that disclosure of this information would constitute a breach of the fairness requirement of the first principle. This is because the individuals in question have not consented to the disclosure of their details. In addition, they do not have seniority in the organisation and would not reasonably expect their personal data to be disclosed.

In addition, the NHS Digital Board briefings, documents relating to those provided in public Board Meetings are accessible on our website here: <https://digital.nhs.uk/about-nhs-digital/our-organisation/nhs-digital-board/board-minutes-and-papers>. This includes updates provided in the Performance Packs and you will be aware that a detailed briefing was provided in the 19 May 2021 public Board Meeting, which you attended, the documents for which were published in the 19 May Board Pack accessible through the link provided.

As some of the information you have requested is accessible by other means through the links provided above, the exemption in Section 21 of FOIA applies and we do not need to provide you with individual copies of all of that material.

Update on the Programme

In a letter dated 19 July 2021 to GP Practices, the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, Jo Churchill, set out a new process for commencing the data collection, moving away from a previously fixed date of 1 September 2021. A copy of the letter is here on the NHS Digital website:

<https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/data-collections-and-data-sets/data-collections/general-practice-data-for-planning-and-research/secretary-of-state-letter-to-general-practice>

More information about this is also set out in the NHS Digital Press Release here:

<https://digital.nhs.uk/news-and-events/latest-news/new-plans-to-increase-protection-and-strengthen-security-for-gp-data-collection-programme>

Disclosure Log

In line with the Information Commissioner's guidance on the disclosure of information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 your request will form part of our disclosure log. Therefore, a version of our response which will protect your anonymity will be posted on the NHS Digital website.

I trust you are satisfied with our response to your request for information. However, if you are not satisfied, you may request a review from a suitably qualified member of staff not involved in the initial query, via the enquiries@nhsdigital.nhs.uk email address or by post at the above postal address.

If following an internal review, you remain unsatisfied with the way in which we have handled your request you are entitled to ask the Information Commissioner to assess whether we have complied with our obligations under FOIA by writing to them at the following address:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire SK9 5AF
Email: casework@ico.org.uk

NHS Digital values customer feedback and would appreciate a moment of your time to respond to our Freedom of Information (FOI) Survey to let us know about your experience. Please access the survey through this link [here](#)

Yours faithfully,

Higher Information Governance Specialist